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Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its thirteenth session

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedures of the Economic and Social Council

I. Relevant requests contained in the draft resolutions

A. Draft resolution I on support to the Bureau in preparing for future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of draft resolution I, recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development and contained in the report on its thirteenth session,[1] the Council would:

(a) Decide that, in order for members of the Bureau to carry out their functions effectively, consideration should be given to providing financial support consisting of travel and daily subsistence to members of the Bureau from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through designated extrabudgetary contributions to the Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(b) Also decide that financial support to members of the Bureau from developing countries and countries with economies in transition should cover participation in one of the meetings of the Bureau to be held outside New York and the respective regional implementation meeting and other relevant meetings in the region.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 9* (E/2005/29), chap. I.A.

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B. Draft resolution II on support for the travel of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution II, recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development and contained in the report on its thirteenth session,[1] the Council would recommend that the General Assembly decide that support to participants from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, may be provided from the Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for travel from funds designated for that purpose.

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007

3. The activities to be carried out relate to subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 and section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be carried out

4. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution I, it is estimated that support would be provided to approximately four members of the Bureau from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, consisting of travel and daily subsistence, to cover one of the meetings of the Bureau to be held outside New York, attendance at their respective regional implementation meeting and other relevant meetings in the region, amounting to $126,400 during the biennium 2006-2007.

5. Regarding draft resolution II, by which the Council would recommend that the General Assembly decide that support to participants from developing countries, with priority given to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, may be provided from the Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on the basis of recent experience it is assumed that such financial support would consist of travel costs only and not per diem for up to 100 representatives. Accordingly, it is estimated that an amount of $1,500,000 would be required for attendance at the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (review session), the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the fifteenth session of the Commission and the fifteenth session of the Commission (policy session) to be held in the biennium 2006-2007.

6. With respect to draft resolution I, the attention of the Council is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for

administrative and budgetary matters and also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

7. The attention of the Council is also drawn to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962, and subsequent amendments, concerning the use of United Nations funds for payment of travel expenses and subsistence allowances. The adoption of the draft resolutions I and II would constitute exceptions to the provisions of that resolution.

IV. Conclusion

8. **Should the Council adopt the draft resolutions I and II contained in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its thirteenth session,[1] additional resources over and above those proposed under the regular budget of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, which will be considered by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, will not be required. It is however estimated that, in order to implement the terms of resolutions, resources of $1,626,400 would need to be made available to meet the travel and daily subsistence allowances of members of the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the travel of participants from developing countries to meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development under the Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.**